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Trump ridicules Ford while supporters laugh, NY Times says Trump engaged in tax fraud, Bruins open season, and yes, cheese tea is a thing

By Teresa Hanafin, Globe Staff

Good morning! It's Wednesday, Oct. 3, the 276th day of the year. The midterms are in 34 days. Sunrise in Boston was at 6:43 a.m.; sunset will be at 6:22 p.m., for 11 hours and 39 minutes of sunlight. The waning moon is 32 percent full.

The Old Farmer's Almanac says that if you encounter yourself in your dreams, there's something you need to confront. Um, narcissism?

What's it like outside? Not a bad day. Cloudy early, but the clouds will break this afternoon and we should see some sun. High 60s to low 70s.

While you were sleeping: More than 1,500 hotel workers at seven Marriott hotels in Boston went on strike this morning -- the first hotel strike in the city's history. The union, Unite Here Local 26, is asking for **higher wages** so workers don't have to hold two or three jobs to earn a living. Workers are also worried about **job loss** from technology such as self-check-in kiosks and robot room service and are asking for better **sexual harassment** protections and **pregnancy** accommodations.

The **Nobel Prize in chemistry** went to three researchers who "harnessed the power of evolution" to produce enzymes and antibodies that have led to new drugs and biofuels. The scientists are **Frances Arnold** of the California Institute of Technology, **George Smith** of the University of Missouri, and **Gregory Winter** of the MRC molecular biology lab in Cambridge, England.

I neglected to mention yesterday that the **Nobel Prize in physics** went to three scientists for their work with lasers: **Arthur Ashkin** of the United States, **Gerard Mourou** of France, and **Donna Strickland** of Canada.

Hey, sport: The **Red Sox** find out tonight who they'll get as an opponent in the American League division series: the **Yankees** or **Oakland A's,** who play a winner-take-all wild-card game at Yankee Stadium (8 p.m. on TBS). In the National League wild-card game last night, the **Colorado Rockies** beat the **Chicago Cubs** in 13 innings, 2-1, to advance to the division series against the **Milwaukee Brewers** starting Thursday night.

Julian Edelman is back with the **Patriots** after his four-game suspension for PED use, practicing with his binky Brady to get ready for the Thursday night game against the **Colts** at Gillette.

The **Bruins** open their season tonight in D.C. against the **Capitals** (7:30 p.m., NBCSN and 98.5 FM), and the Globe's Kevin Paul Dupont outlines what forward **Patrice Bergeron** means to the club.

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The president of the United States openly mocked, disparaged, and ridiculed a woman who has credibly claimed that she was sexually assaulted. His debased supporters laughed and cheered in an ugly, inhumane display of callousness. Remember that Christine Blasey Ford testified that one aspect of her assault that was seared into her memory was that of her attackers' cruel laughter, "their having fun at my expense." Watch her re-victimization here.

Blockbuster from The New York Times:

"President Trump participated in dubious tax schemes during the 1990s, including instances of outright fraud, that greatly increased the fortune he received from his parents, an investigation by The New York Times has found.

"Mr. Trump won the presidency proclaiming himself a self-made billionaire, and he has long insisted that his father, the legendary New York City builder Fred C. Trump, provided almost no financial help.

"But The Times's investigation, based on a vast trove of confidential tax

returns and financial records, reveals that Mr. Trump received the equivalent today of at least $413 million from his father's real estate empire, starting when he was a toddler and continuing to this day.

"Much of this money came to Mr. Trump because he helped his parents dodge taxes. He and his siblings set up a sham corporation to disguise millions of dollars in gifts from their parents, records and interviews show. Records indicate that Mr. Trump helped his father take improper tax deductions worth millions more. He also helped formulate a strategy to undervalue his parents' real estate holdings by hundreds of millions of dollars on tax returns, sharply reducing the tax bill when those properties were transferred to him and his siblings.

"These maneuvers met with little resistance from the Internal Revenue Service, The Times found. The president's parents, Fred and Mary Trump, transferred well over $1 billion in wealth to their children, which could have produced a tax bill of at least $550 million under the 55 percent tax rate then imposed on gifts and inheritances.

"The Trumps paid a total of $52.2 million, or about 5 percent, tax records show.

"The president declined repeated requests over several weeks to comment for this article. But a lawyer for Mr. Trump, Charles J. Harder, provided a written statement on Monday, one day after The Times sent a detailed description of its findings. 'The New York Times's allegations of fraud and tax evasion are 100 percent false, and highly defamatory,' Mr. Harder said. 'There was no fraud or tax evasion by anyone. The facts upon which The Times bases its false allegations are extremely inaccurate.' "

Harder went on to blame Trump's brothers and sisters: "President Trump had virtually no involvement whatsoever with these matters. The affairs were handled by other Trump family members ..." What a guy.

Read the devastating, extremely detailed, and quite lengthy (14,000 words!) report on the Times's site here. The Times also published 11 takeaways from their report. If you have used up your free views there, here's an excerpt published by the Globe. And if you're not a BostonGlobe.com

subscriber (what?!?), then you can read summaries from CNN or DW.

There's another Women's March in D.C. tomorrow -- it's called #CancelKavanaugh / Believe Survivors -- to protest the nomination of Brett Kavanaugh to the Supreme Court. Tonight, a bus will leave from South Station at midnight to bring Boston-area participants there. You have to sign up ahead of time.

The FBI probe into Ford's accusation of sexual assault against Kavanaugh could wrap up today.

Don't panic this afternoon when your cell phone receives what could look like a tweet from Trump (not really). FEMA will test its first-ever "Presidential Alert," an emergency-notification mobile bulletin that's the highest level alert the federal government can send. The test alert will go to 225 million cell phones at 2:18 p.m. It's to be used only for advance warning of national crises such as a missile attack or a tsunami or a Trump campaign rally.

An independent analysis of Question 1, the Mass. ballot referendum that would mandate minimum nurse-to-patient staffing ratios, found that hospitals would need to hire 2,286 to 3,101 additional full-time nurses to comply with the measure. The Health Policy Commission, which conducted the study, concluded that the cost would be **$676 million to $949 million** per year, similar to estimates from the Mass. Health & Hospital Association, a hospital industry group that opposes the ballot question and has spent millions of dollars trying to defeat it. The Mass. Nurses Association, which wrote the measure, said the **cost estimates are wildly inflated;** its number is $47 million.

The first debate between Mass. Attorney General **Maura Healey** and her Republican challenger, attorney **Jay McMahon,** is at 7 tonight on WGBH-TV Channel 2.

German Chancellor Angela Merkel started a two-day visit to Israel today, her first visit there in more than four years. She'll receive **an honorary degree** from the University of Haifa in recognition of her "groundbreaking leadership," her opposition to anti-Semitism, and her strengthening of

scientific cooperation between Germany and Israel. But she'll also be pressured about Germany's continued support of the Iran nuclear deal, which Israeli Prime Minister **Benjamin Netanyahu** adamantly opposes.

Finally, some people think putting cheese in tea is a good idea. Before you freak out, it's cream cheese with whipped cream and sugar added, so it's pretty much a big cheesy blob of sugar. Here's how Kraft says to make it. Some recipes also add salt, like this one.

Thanks for reading. It's rainy here in Massachusetts this morning, so maybe a cup of cheese tea is just the thing to chase away the clouds. Please send comments and suggestions to teresa.hanafin@globe.com, or follow me on Twitter @BostonTeresa. See you tomorrow.

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